

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /054 W  
-----151929Z 090485 /53

R 151220Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6290  
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID  
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET REACTION TO PCE LEGALIZATION

REF: MOSCOW 2809

SUMMARY: SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT'S  
DECISION TO LEGALIZE THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE)  
HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, TREATING THE DECISION  
AS A WELCOME SIGN OF FURTHER DEMOCRATIZATION OF SPAIN'S  
POLITICAL SYSTEM AS MUCH AS A VICTORY FOR SPANISH  
COMMUNISTS. SOVIET PRESS REPORTING SINCE APRIL 10  
DECREE LEGALIZING THE PCE HAS STRESSED FAVORABLE  
ATTITUDE OF SPANISH LEADERS AND CITIZENS TO LEGALIZATION.  
OFFICIAL SOVIET REACTION WAS IN THE FORM OF A CONGRA-  
TULATORY TELEGRAM ISSUED BY THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE  
TO THE PCE'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND "ALL SPANISH COMMUNISTS."  
THE LATTER FORMULATION MAY REPRESENT AN APPEAL TO RANK AND  
FILE OVER HEADS OF EUROCOMMUNIST LEADERSHIP. MEANWHILE  
SPANISH EMBASSY HERE HAS STILL NOT ISSUED PASSPORT TO LA  
PASIONARIA. END SUMMARY.

1. MAIN THRUST OF SOVIET COMMENTARY HAS BEEN TO HAIL

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PCE'S NEW LEGAL STATUS AS VICTORY FOR SPANISH COMMUNISTS  
AND ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES AS WELL AS AN ADDITIONAL STEP IN  
AN INCOMPLETED PROCESS OF ELIMINATING VESTIGES OF FASCISM  
AND FRANCO DICTATORSHIP. NOTING THAT GOS DECISION WAS MADE  
UNDER "STRONG PRESSURE" FROM DEMOCRATIC FORCES, INCLUDING  
LEADERS OF PARTIES WHICH ARE ENTERING DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERATION,  
SOVIETS NEVERTHELESS INDIRECTLY CONGRATULATED GOS

FOR RECOGNIZING CHANGE IN BALANCE OF POLITICAL FORCES ON  
EVE OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS -- FIRST SINCE 1936. PCE'S  
PLANNED PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS WAS NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT.  
SOVIET PRESS CITES LEADERS OF LEFTIST PARTIES WHO CLAIM THAT  
PCE LEGALIZATION WILL NECESSARILY LEAD TO THE LIFTING OF  
BANS ON OTHER "DEMOCRATIC" ORGANIZATIONS, IN PARTICULAR  
TRADE UNIONS.

2. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, THE CPSU TELEGRAM "WARMLY" CONGRATULA-  
TED ALL COMMUNISTS AND DEMOCRATS ON LIFTING OF BAN ON PCE.  
TELEGRAM STATED THAT FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION  
BETWEEN SOVIET AND SPANISH COMMUNISTS MUST BE CAREFULLY  
PRESERVED AND INCREASED "IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLES  
OF THE SOVIET UNION AND SPAIN, OF COOPERATION BETWEEN  
OUR COUNTRIES, AND OF STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY  
IN EUROPE."

3. IZVESTIA APRIL 12 REPORTED THAT ALL SPANISH COMMUNISTS  
AND WORKERS ARE PREPARING TO GREET IN TRIUMPH "IN A FEW  
DAYS" PCE CHAIRWOMAN AND MOSCOW RESIDENT DOLORES IBARRURI  
(LA PASIONARIA). PRESS RUMORS HERE AND WESTERN RADIO  
BROADCASTS SAY THAT IBARRURI WILL BE IN MADRID FOR THE  
PCE'S FIRST CC PLENUM SINCE THE CIVIL WAR (APRIL 14-15).  
SPANISH EMBOFF INFORMED US MARCH 2 THAT GOS HAD DECIDED  
TO GIVE IBARRURI A PASSPORT BY MID-MARCH (REFTEL), BUT  
SAME EMBOFF TOLD US APRIL 14 THAT EMBASSY STILL HAS NOT  
RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FROM MADRID TO DO SO AND HE DOES  
NOT SEE HOW SHE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO MADRID IN ONLY  
A FEW DAYS.

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4. COMMENT: SOVIET RESTRAINT IN REACTING TO PCE'S NEW  
LEGAL STATUS AND EMPHASIS ON ITS BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON  
SPANISH DEMOCRACY, SOVIET-SPANISH RELATIONS, AND EURO-  
PEAN POLITICS ARE NO DOUBT DICTATED BY INTEREST IN  
MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOS WITH WHICH  
MOSCOW ONLY RECENTLY RE-ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC TIES.  
WE SEE ALSO IN THE TONE AND CONTENT OF THE SOVIET  
CONGRATULATIONS POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY BE SHOWING  
COOLNESS TOWARDS PCE LEADERSHIP AS WELL. REFERENCES  
TO "ALL" SPANISH COMMUNISTS RATHER THAN TO LEADERSHIP  
COULD BE INTERPRETED AS APPEAL TO RANK AND FILE SPANISH  
COMMUNISTS OVER HEADS OF CARRILLO AND EUROCOMMUNIST LEADERSHIP.  
FURTHERMORE, MENTION IN SUCH MESSAGE OF NEED TO PRESERVE  
AND INCREASE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN SOVIET  
AND SPANISH COMMUNISTS INDICATES LESS THAN SATISFACTION  
WITH PRESENT STATE OF COOPERATION.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009